

**Debra Thompson**

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**From:** Don Drury <don.vikingcms@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 12, 2025 10:56 AM  
**To:** Assembly  
**Subject:** Thoughts on American Cruise Line proposal

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I had a couple concerns about what I heard at the meeting. The following is a letter to the editor that I just sent to Orin:

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My wife and I attended the Council meeting Tuesday regarding the proposed new dock that would be partially paid for by American Cruise Lines, which comes with a 60 year commitment to their priority and continued use. Taking money from large corporations always comes with strings attached, many of which aren't fully realized until it is far too late. That being said though, I believe that all my feelings were more clearly expressed by all the other speakers. In fact, I am no more opposed than anyone else in the room. I would encourage everyone to listen to the full recording available on the KFSK website.

There were two things that kept me up last night, that weren't said, that I feel need to be said. The word "inevitable" was frequently used. Words are powerful, and this one in particular abdicates our inherent power. The flawed reasoning was that if the council does not accept this offer, then ACL will negotiate a less-satisfactory agreement with a private property owner and the outcome will be worse for everybody. The representative from ACL did not offer any commitment to not do such a slippery thing, remaining silent as that was discussed. I do not feel that entering into a negotiation with that tacit threat in place is an honest negotiation.

**I propose that our first step *prior* to entering into this negotiation, would be to pass an ordinance, or zoning change that would completely take that threat off the table.** I would like this to happen even if this offer were withdrawn. Only the Council should be able to make those agreements on behalf of the whole community.

No individual property owner should be able to dock ships of that size that burden our public utilities, public infrastructure, public employees, and all-volunteer emergency services for their own personal gain, ever.

Second, the sentence "they are offering us a seat at the table" was spoken nonchalantly by one of our council members. I felt a little sick. The ACL representative again did not disagree with that, while she was sitting in a chair our city owned, in front of our council, in our fine Assembly Chamber, after years of docking their profitable cruise line at our publicly owned harbor. The best harbor in the world, in fact. She was literally sitting at our table. I would like to never again hear that kind of language from a Council member. Words are powerful, and we are an authentic and powerful community. Let's talk like it.

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